

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 00140 072137Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6473

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, SOCI, US, CI

SUBJECT: HOLY CROSS IN CHILE; ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: 75 SANTIAGO 8342

1. HOLY CROSS PROVINCIAL FATHER WILLIAM LEWERS CALLED ON ADCM JAN 6. SAID CARDINAL SILVA HAD EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE THAT HOLY CROSS ORDER STAY IN CHILE, HAD OFFERED TO TURN OVER A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR ORDER TO ADMINISTER. LEWERS SAID HE EXPECTS TO SEND A FEW NEW PEOPLE IN NEXT MONTHS TO STAFF SCHOOL.
2. LEWERS INDICATED THAT HE WAS PURSUING IDEA OF TURNING OVER ADMINISTRATION OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL TO SANTIAGO ARCHDIOCESE (REFTEL). IF APPROVED BY CARDINAL AND BY GOC, FORMER WOULD NAME RECTOR AND GRADUALLY TAKE OVER FUNCTIONS NOW EXERCISED BY MILITARY INTERVENTOR. HOLY CROSS' INTEREST IN SCHOOL WOULD BE PROTECTED IN EXPECTATION THAT MORE REASONABLE GOVERNMENT WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO POWER. HOLY CROSS HAD DECIDED TO STICK IT OUT IF IT COULD.
3. LEWERS SAID HOLY CROSS WOULD NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS INTEREST IN SCHOOL KNOWN TO GOC. LAWYER JAMES ST. CLAIR HAD WRITTEN EDUCATION MINISTER TRONCOSO INQUIRING RE

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PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 00140 072137Z

STATE OF PLAY ON NEGOTIATIONS, AND OTHER SUCH ACTIONS WOULD

BE TAKEN FROM TIME TO TIME. ORDER MAY ASK GOC TO ALLOW AUDIT OF SCHOOL'S FINANCES. EMBOFF OPINED THAT SUCH LOW KEY APPROACHES MIGHT BE USEFUL IN REMINDING GOC THAT PROBLEM STILL EXISTS.

4. LEWERS FURTHER STATED THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT QUESTION OF PROPERTY TAXES ON SCHOOL, AND WHETHER PROLONGED ABSENCE OF HOLY CROSS FROM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION COULD EVENTUALLY AFFECT ITS RIGHTS AS OWNER. HE ASKED WHETHER USG HAD EXPERIENCE IN PROBLEMS OF THIS CHARACTER. EMBOFF SAID HOLY CROSS LAWYERS ARE BEST ONES TO LOOK INTO SUCH QUESTIONS, AND THAT LEWERS MIGHT ALSO MENTION THEM TO CHILE DESK IN WASHINGTON.
POPPER

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